









GENE SALOMON

The longtime hack recounts dozens of his most unforgettable fares in the memoir "Confessions of a New York Taxi Driver."

VETERAN CABBIE, NEW AUTHOR

From celebrities to unabashed lovers, veteran cabbie Gene Salomon has driven all sorts since his first fare in 1977. Salomon tells us about one of his strangest trips, what cabbies fear the most and his memoir "Confessions of a New York Taxi Driver," on bookshelves Tuesday.

What do you like about driving a cab?

You're just cruising the streets like a cowboy. I can go anywhere.

What was one of your wildest rides?

It was about 20 years ago. I was taking a 30-something couple from Manhattan to Brooklyn Heights at midnight. We're in Brooklyn, they're a few blocks from their destination, we stopped at a red light, and two cops came running toward the car and got in. One cop in the front with me, one cop in the back

Hook up

Gross

What do you do when passengers fool around?

There's a taxi cab position. The guy sits like

"The possibility of

somebody puking in

your cab is really the

worst fear of a cab

driver. It used to be

getting shot." salomon

with the two people. ...

They commandeered the

scene they had to get to

Did you keep the meter

immediately.

cab. There was some crime

going on, you know running during the detour?

Yes! Why should I have to

he normally would and

back window, straddling

the guy. If you see them

the girl sits on top of

him looking out the

like that and there's

enough body motion

You've driven around a lot of celebrities, but one you highlight in the book is your trip with Leonardo DiCaprio and his friends to a club.

This was before "Titanic," so I had never heard of him. ... After we get to the club, this is a kid, 17 years old, and he stays in the cab, starts asking me questions about what it's like to be a taxi driver in

they're not just kissing. What I normally do if I see people in that position, I'll make left and right turns as strong as I can to knock the girl off. This is the taxi cab driver's revenge.

New York. ... He asked me, "Who was the best celebrity tipper you ever had?" ... I said, "John McEnroe gave me double the meter." And Leonardo DiCaprio says, "Well, I'm going to give you triple the meter!" And he did.

You usually ride from 5 p.m. to 5 a.m. Why do you prefer the night shift?

At night, you get people going out, enjoying themselves, and of course the drunks at night. What would we do without

But then there's the chance the drunks will throw up.

The possibility of somebody puking in your cab is really the worst fear of a cab driver. It used to be getting shot.

What about passengers fooling around?

It does happen, not as frequently as it used to, back in the day. It's awkward and annoying. ... It used to be a vicarious thrill, but now that I'm getting older, it's not that big a deal to

Why did you decide to write a book about your experiences?

There's so much material that comes in the door, virtually every night. It's a great place to collect stories.

SANDERS

Student dies after drop from dorm



A New York University student died after falling from a dorm in the East Village Monday morning, officials said.

The 19-year-old freshman, who was not identified, plummeted into an interior courtyard at the 15-story Third North Residence Hall near East 11th Street about 3:20 a.m., officials said.

He was pronounced dead at Bellevue Hospital.

The Medical Examiner

Investigation

"Police and the university are looking into events preceding the discovery of the body in order to determine the cause and nature of his death."

John Beckman, NYU spokesman

will determine the cause of death. Police said it's unclear if the fall was unintentional, but the student may have been high.

NYU spokesman John Beckman said it appeared the death occurred after

"Police and the university are looking into events preceding the discovery of the body in order to determine the cause and nature of his death," he said.

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NEW YORK

Midtown

Assault of gay journalist spurs manhunt

Police are looking for a man they said assaulted a gay journalist in Midtown earlier this month.

Randy Gener, 46, was attacked while walking home from a party about 3 a.m. on Jan. 17, according to police.



He was found with severe head trauma by officers near Seventh Avenue and West 54th Street, a few blocks from his apartment.

Authorities said an unknown man punched Gener in the face, causing him to fall and strike his head.

Police said the suspect fled in a gray, four-door Nissan.

Gener was taken to St. Luke's Hospital where he remains in stable condition, recovering from brain surgery.

Gener is gay and has bylines in the New York Times and other publications.

Police said the assault is being investigated as a possible hate crime by a hate crimes task force.

De Blasio testifies on pre-K plan in Albany

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Level field. The mayor said that his plan would pay to educate every child in the city.

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio made an appearance in Albany on Monday to tout his signature plan for universal pre-kindergarten before the joint Fiscal Committees.

By raising taxes on those making more than \$500,000 a year from the current 3.9 percent to 4.4 percent, de Blasio said, the city would secure the \$340 million a recent report deemed necessary for providing every 4-year-old child in the city with free all-day pre-kindergarten.

"We can level the field for our kids — every child in every borough of our city — by asking those who make more than half a million dollars a year to pay a little more in taxes," de Blasio said.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo has previously called for statewide universal pre-K, but has been leery of raising taxes to fund it.

De Blasio, for his part, made it clear last month that when it comes to potential state funding for his plan, he is not interested in partial funding or "half-measures."

EMILY JOHNSON letters@metro.u

By the numbers

54K

If the program goes forward, he added, the city could begin accommodating about 54,000 pre-K students by this September.

Education for all

Mayor Bill de Blasio spoke to members of the State Assembly and State Senate about his pre-K plan.

- The plan calls for raising taxes on the rich.
- "This one dedicated measure would fully fund universal pre-K in our city, and let us expand middle school extended learning programs, too," he said.



Metro-North, LIRR managed funds poorly

Audits. Comptroller DiNapoli released reports on how the officials handled federal stimulus funds.

Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North officials have been lax in their oversight of federal stimulus funds, according to audit reports released Monday by State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

Among other things, a lack of oversight has allowed some Metro-North employees to be paid overtime for traveling to project sites and getting washed up for work, while one LIRR track foreman claimed 24 consecutive hours of overtime, the reports said.

Transit officials took issue with how the reports characterized the audits' findings.

In an addendum, Di-Napoli was careful to note that no instances of fraud had been uncovered.

The other report reached a similar conclusion about the LIRR's handling of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, noting that some supervisors who

prepared time sheets for crew members relied on schedules instead of reporting the hours the employees actually worked.

EMILY JOHNSON

Improvement

"There's significant room for improvement in how Metro-North and LIRR monitor the hours their employees work."

Thomas DiNapoli

Pay. Stringer calls for \$11 minimum wage

Drunken driver strikes, kills man

Staten Island

A 67-year-old Staten Island man died on Sunday after being struck by a vehicle operated by a drunken driver, police said.

James Benedict was walking in Fort Wadsworth about 6:55 p.m. when a 2004 Lexus hit him. The driver, Michael Pogorzelski, 39, was charged with driving while intoxicated. LAURA SHIN

City Comptroller Scott Stringer called on Albany to allow New York City to set its own minimum wage on Monday, saying it should be \$11.

The statewide minimum wage is \$8, and local governments do not have the power to set their own minimum wages.

The state raised the minimum wage last year from \$7.25 to \$9 over a three-year period. It became \$8 at the end of



2013, and it will be raised to \$8.75 by the end of 2014, then \$9 by the end of 2015. LAURA SHIN

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Southwest to begin flights to Aruba, **Bahamas and Jamaica**

Yeh, mon. The U.S. carrier will offer nonstop flights to some tropical destination islands.

Southwest Airlines Co currently offers flights to Mexico and the Caribbean through AirTran, which it acquired in 2011. The U.S. carrier said a new reservations system that can handle international bookings was up

and running.
Starting July 1, Southwest will have nonstop flights between Atlanta and Aruba and Montego Bay, Jamaica; between Baltimore/Washington and Aruba, Nassau and Montego Bay; and be-tween Orlando and Aruba and Montego Bay.

By year's end, all current AirTran international flights will be converted to Southwest, Chief Executive Gary Kelly told a media conference that was broadcast over the Internet.

International flying is a growth opportunity for Southwest, which has



"We're going to look at routes that our customers desire, look at routes that are over-fared and there are plenty of over-fared routes both north and south." Jordan

curbed flights to unprofitable markets and is retiring older aircraft to reduce maintenance costs.

Kelly added that Southwest would not likely add new international cities this year beyond the areas served by AirTran. He said Southwest was not currently planning to add bigger aircraft. It currently operates Boeing 737s.

Robert Jordan, chief

commercial officer, said Southwest was looking at a "pretty robust number of new cities" it could fly to over the next few years. Southwest is spending more than \$100 million at Houston's William Hobby Airport to install gates and a customs facility as it looks to add flights to Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America in 2015. REUTERS

Illnesses. Cruise ship will return early for sick passengers

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. said one of its ships will return home from the Caribbean two days early after hundreds of passengers and crew became sick.

Almost 19 percent of passengers on board the Explorer of the Seas -577 out of 3,050 — had gastrointestinal illnesses such as diarrhea, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on its website.

The outbreak "appears to be" the norovirus, Adam Goldstein, chief executive officer of the Royal Caribbean International line, said Monday on a conference call, referring to the contagious stomach bug. "This has been a difficult situation."

The ship left Cape Liberty, N.J., on Jan. 21 for a 10-day cruise in the Caribbean and now will return Jan. 29. Royal Caribbean said the ship, once home, will undergo a complete sanitization, its third since the outbreak began. BLOOMBERG

Forty-nine of the 1.165 crew members also were sick, said the CDC, who sent officials on the ship yesterday in the Virgin Islands to assess the situation.

Gun violence

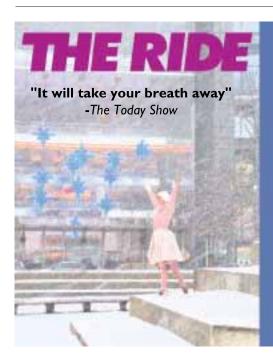
Maryland mall reopens after fatal shooting

A Maryland mall where a 19-year-old gunman shot and killed two young store employees before apparently taking his own life was scheduled to reopen on Monday with increased law enforcement presence, police

The popular retail complex in Columbia, Md., about 20 miles

west of Baltimore, has been closed since Darion Marcus Aguilar fired six to eight shots from a 12-gauge shotgun on Saturday as the mall bustled with weekend shoppers.

Police are still investigating what drove Aguilar, of College Park, Md., to shoot and whether he knew the two employees of a clothing and skateboard shop who died. No evidence has revealed a relationship between Aguilar and the victims. **REUTERS**



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Obama expands State of Union on social media as TV fades

New media. The campaign includes Google Hangouts and Facebook chats by cabinet members.

President Barack Obama is deploying just about every trendy social media tool to promote a century-old ritual - the annual State of the Union address to Congress.

From a kickoff Web video by his chief of staff to a presidential "virtual road trip," the White House is mounting its largest digital drive of the year to heighten the impact of tonight's event amid a declining television audience.

Though the 33.5 milviewers Obama

drew last year is half the number Bill Clinton had 20 years earlier, the address remains a major TV event, topping both the Emmy Awards and World Series in viewership. Yet with his job-approval rating down 10 points from last year, Obama will also need the new media to engage his party's base, whose enthusiasm is vital if Democrats are to keep control of the Senate in the 2014 election.

There are a lot of reasons to dismiss the State of the Union," said Jon Favreau, Obama's former chief speechwriter. "But aside from championship sporting events and a few awards shows, it is the one annual event that much of the country watches together."

Rooted in a quill-andparchment constitutional clause, the address functions as a high-tech organizing tool for the White House to engage past and present supporters.

"The Internet moments," said Mele, a lecturer at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and former webmaster for Democrat Howard Dean's 2004 presidential campaign. "What is powerful about the State of the Union for the White House is it is a moment that they create and control."BLOOMBERG

Quoted

"What is powerful about the State of the Union for the White House is it is a moment that they create and control." Mele



Brutally cold weather shuts schools, delays air travel

Bitter cold and high winds surging down from the Arctic pushed wind chills to dangerous levels across the upper Midwest. Officials closed schools in Chicago, Cincinnati and the Cleveland area on Monday due to the biting cold. About 800 flights were canceled within, into and out of the United States on Monday, according to FlightAware.com. REUTERS

Florida

Congressman Radel resigns after cocaine charge

Republican Representative Trey Radel, who was charged in November with buying cocaine, resigned from Congress on Monday.

Radel, 37, returned to Congress in January, six weeks after he pleaded guilty to cocaine possession and checked into a rehabilitation clinic.

"Unfortunately, some of my struggles had serious consequences. While I have dealt with those issues on a personal level, it is my belief that professionally I cannot fully and effectively serve as a United States Representative to the place I love and call home, Southwest Florida," he wrote in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner on Monday. **REUTERS**

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A bit of trouble

Two Bitcoin exchange operators charged with laundering

Two men who operate Bitcoin exchange businesses have been charged with money laundering for helping drug merchants exchange \$1 million in cash for Bitcoins, the digital currency, U.S. prosecutors said on Monday.

Federal pros-ecutors in New York announced charges against Charlie Shrem and Robert Faiella, both operators of Bitcoin exchange businesses, for attempting to sell \$1 million in the digital currency to users of the underground black market website Silk Road, which was shut down by authorities in September.

REUTERS

Suicide attempt

Teenager sets himself on fire in suburban Denver high school: Police

A 16-year-old student set himself on fire in the cafeteria of a Denver suburb high school on Monday in front of horrified classmates in what police said was an apparent suicide attempt.

The student at Standley Lake High School in Westminster, Colo., suffered burns over 80 percent of his body and was hospitalized in critical condition, according to a town fire and police spokeswomen.

The youth walked into the cafeteria around 7 a.m. and lit himself on fire before a school custodian grabbed a fire extinguisher and quickly doused the flames, police said in a statement. REUTERS

Banking apps on Android phones most at risk of virus says Kaspersky Lab



Geographically.Kaspersky warns that it is hard to determine where most cyber attacks

are coming from.

Banking applications on Android phones are most vulnerable to cyber crime, the chief executive and co-founder of Russian anti-virus software maker Kaspersky Lab said on Monday.

Eugene Kaspersky said 99 percent of mobile attacks are toward Android-based phones, since Apple has strict controls and does not allow third-party applications.

The most disturbing

trend in cyber attacks was a growing shift to mobile devices from computers and a major cyber attack using mobile phones was bound to happen since cellular users are not properly protected, he told Reuters.

"I expect something really bad to happen to change people's minds and awareness," he said, noting that it took the Chernobyl virus in 1998 for people to properly protect their computers.

Kaspersky makes one of the top-selling antivirus programs in the United States, where it has gained market share in recent years against products from Symantec Corp., Intel's McAfee and Trend Micro.

REUTERS



www.manhattantotalhealth.com





Man found hanging in Kiev square

A 55-year-old man was found dead on Monday hanging from the framework of a huge artificial "New Year tree" in central Kiev, which has become a symbol of anti-government resistance, Ukrainian police said. Police said they removed the body, which was hanging inside the coneshaped tubular steel construction on Kiev's Independence Square. The "tree" is festooned with a poster of jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko and scrawled with graffiti attacking President Viktor Yanukovich. REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES

Broken up in France

Ex-first lady: 'Don't worry about me'

France's former first lady, Valerie Trierweiler, said on Monday she was doing fine after her split from



President Francois Hollande, telling reporters during a trip to India that she felt "useful" doing charity work. The breakup of the couple, who were not married, was confirmed on Saturday by Hollande. **reuters**

Unholy heist

Thieves steal Pope John Paul's blood from church

Thieves broke into a small church in the mountains east of Rome over the weekend and stole a reliquary with the blood of the late Pope John Paul II, a custodian said on Monday.

Dozens of police with sniffer dogs scoured the remote area for clues to what the Italian Catholic magazine Famiglia Cristiana called "a sacrilegious theft that was probably commissioned by someone.'

Franca Corrieri told Reuters she had discovered a broken window early on Sunday morning and had called the police. When they entered the small stone church, they found the gold reliquary and a crucifix missing.



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Second shift: Creative ways city dwellers make ends meet

Work life. In a new series, readers share their stories about working more than one job. Want to be featured? Email emily. laurence@metro.us

We all know living in New York is expensive. So how do people do it? Our new column, Second Shift, features people working more than one job to make it work.

Jackie Caruso

Age: 27 Residency: Hoboken, N.J. Number of jobs: 4

You have four jobs?! What are they and how do you do it?

I work as a freelance makeup artist, doing makeup for commercials, TV shows, weddings and magazines. My second job is as a freelance makeup artist for a makeup school called Makeup Designory. I work in their store, Mud Shop. My third job is as a bottle service girl at a private club. And fourth, I work for a catering company at a big New York sports venue.

How do you make your schedule?

It changes every week. Sometimes I'll work three jobs in one day: I'll work at the makeup store from 10 Final thoughts

Overall, are you happy with your lifestyle?

Trying to pay my bills every month, I have to love what I do. If you don't love what you do, you're going to be miserable. I know reaching my ultimate goal isn't going to happen next year, and it might not happen in five years. But it will happen one day.

a.m. to 5 p.m., cater from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m., and [work at] the club from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. I try and put my makeup first, because that's my passion. Then I'll take jobs with the catering company because it's steady and reliable money. But my schedule is never the same.

Are you working multiple jobs to make ends meet or is it because you want to live a certain lifestyle and have enough money to support it?

I think a bit of both. I'm not going to lie: Paying rent is hard. But I did just go on a big three-week vacation with my sister. And I still go out to dinner and drinks. My dream is to open my own studio, where clients can get their makeup, hair, spray tanning and eyelash extensions done. It would be a one-stop shop for women going out or to an event.

Do you still have time to hang out with your friends?

Yes and no. Sometimes I won't see my best friend for two weeks, but I definitely make an effort. Even if it's just me stopping by the bar on the way home for a few minutes, I definitely try.

Jackie Caruso works her makeup magic on a client. //ACKNE CARUSO

Right now I'm just trying to get through the end of the year, but next year I want to start saving even if it's just \$10 or \$20 of each paycheck.



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11

Nine to five. Three things the best companies to work for all have in common.

Fortune magazine has released its list of the 100 best companies to work for, and while who made the cut probably won't surprise you (Google, Goldman Sachs, Accenture), there are some commonalities that surface when looking at the full roster.

To compile the list, the magazine's editors partnered with the Great Place to Work Institute to distribute surveys to employees at as many corporate companies as they could. The questions pertained to employees' job satisfaction, company credibility and managerial approval.

One trait shared by the top companies is offering creative perks. Employees love bragging about things their company offers, such as encouraging volunteer work through companyorganized trips (Google), an onsite health center



Promotional material

Employees also value companies where they see people moving up the ladder. When someone is promoted internally as opposed to bringing an outsider in for a top position, it shows everyone that hard work is noticed, and pays off. EMILY LAURENCE

(SAS) or special rewards for employees who put forth extra effort (top sellers at Salesforce.com received a two-week trip to Bhutan.)

If you think your company can't afford to offer cool perks, you're wrong; it just takes a little creativity. Public recognition at annual meetings praising people who go above or beyond, company parties during big TV events like games or award shows, or surprising an employee once a month with a free carwash are just a few lowcost ways to boost morale.

Something else the top 100 companies to work for have in common is providing ways for employees to do what they re really passionate about. Whether it's through onsite yoga classes, carved out time for volunteering or company sports teams, taking employees' interests into account goes a long way.

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- The side of my toenails dig into the skin and hurt.
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- I get an extremely painful "cramp" in the area of my third and fourth toes when wearing shoes.
- My toes aren't straight they are crooked, bent and hurt.
- I have painful calluses on the ball of my foot which keep building up.
- · I have corns on my toes which get thicker no matter what shoe size I wear.
- The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
- I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
- My ankles are swollen most of the time.
- · My feet are always dry and scaly sometimes they itch.
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We check in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Today, Marlon Wayans is enjoying Twitter, Emma not a fan of awards shows and Patton Oswalt is mystified by TV development.

@MarlonWayans: Love that u guys can actually hear the wild, crazy, off-base, sometimes crass and rude thoughts in my head thru social media

@EmWatson: Computer just crashed. Pain au chocolat anyone?

@KellyOsbourne: been standing in 7 inch heels since 11am almost a full 12 hours I don't think I will be able to walk tomorrow its soooo good to sit down!

@pattonoswalt: Fun fact about @HBO's #TrueDetective: It started as a MR. **BELVEDERE** reboot and went waaaaaay off the tracks.



The best, new friendship ever?

Can someone please make a reality TV show out of the friendship of Meryl Streep and 50 Cent? The two were all smiles at the Los Angeles Lakers vs. New York Knicks game at Madison Square Garden on Sunday night in New York City.

The Grammys' In Memoriam misspelled Cory Monteith's name

The Grammy Awards would like everyone to know how very, very sorry they are about the death of what's-his-name.

"Glee" star Cory Monteith, who died last summer, was included in the Grammys' "In Memoriam" montage of musicians lost in the past year. However, the slideshow spelled his name "Cory Montieth."

Listen, Grammys, I know you're a drunken, long-winded stripper of an awards show, but if you're only going to spellcheck one thing — one thing — it should probably be the names of dead people. Maybe next year, have one fewer fake blood cannon and put that part of the budget toward a proofreader.

"Glee" isn't the only



one with a grievance against last night's Grammys: Trent Reznor is none to happy with them, either.

Reznor's band Nine Inch Nails gave the awards show's closing performance, along with Queens of the Stone Age, Dave Grohl and Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham.

Unfortunately, by the end of a four-hour ceremony, not even all that star power could induce people to wait around and listen the Grammys began to roll the credits during the performance.

Reznor didn't take it lying down. "A heartfelt F—YOU guys," he tweeted. MELINDA TAUB

Prince sues his fans

Prince, say it ain't so? The Purple One is apparently going after some of his fans for posting recordings of some live performances online.

According to Radar Online, the singer is suing two California individuals for infringing on his copyright by sharing bootlegs, and he's seeking \$1 million in damages from each of them.

"The Defendants rely on either Google's Blogger platform or Facebook, or both, to accomplish their unlawful activity," the suit claims, adding that the fans "typically publish posts that list all the songs performed at a certain Prince live show and then provide a link to a





file-sharing service where unauthorized copies of the performance can be downloaded." Prince's lawyers say they have found more than 360 such links.





OK, OK. Taylor Swift actually looked quite stunning in this elegant gold number. But ain't nothing fashionable about those middle-aged, wine-drunk white lady dance moves she insists on showcasing at every awards show. And #taylorswiftraphands is now trending. (But not, of course, on trend.)

There is a lot of shiny white material happening here, and all of it is alarming. Did **CeeLo Green** raid his grandmother's closet and jack her "fancy" pair of pajamas pre-show?

Madge might be the Queen of Pop, but there's nothing royal about her habit of wearing grills to fancy events. There's a line just waiting to be written about her in a Lorde song, somewhere.

Kacey Musgraves should have followed her arrow directly to a professional stylist. Her trashy-server-at-stripmall-TexMex-joint look wasn't doing her many favors.

5There is no joke about Pharrell Williams' Hat (yes, it deserves capitalization — it is an entity all its own) we could make that the Internet has not made already, 10 times over and in multiple GIFs. So we'll just leave this photo right here for your consideration.

Hahaha, you guys.
Steven Tyler was just listed as the 26th most fashionable Bostonian in some random Internet list from some random Internet retailer, US Trendy. Dude looks like a lady, literally: We had a hard time telling him apart from Madonna in their matching white suit-things.

GETTY IMAGES

Grammys. We have one word for you: HAT. The worst (and most confusingly) dressed of the night



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She's not 'Frankenstein'

Interview. The "Chuck" and "Dexter" actress Yvonne Strahovski tries her hand at blockbuster horror.

Between television turns on "Chuck," "Dexter" and this summer's "24: Live Another Day," Australian actress Yvonne Strahovski squeezed in some time opposite Aaron Eckhart as a scientist with good intentions but evil bosses in "I, Frankenstein." It's all part of her plan to keep her work as diverse as possible — and learning the importance of saying no.

Do you find yourself seeking out roles like that?

I try and change it up. I feel like so far I've been lucky enough to do so, whether it's "I, Frankenstein" or playing a serial killer [on "Dexter"].



Mixing it up

How do you find striking a balance between movies and TV?

It's hard. Like with any profession, you start off at the very beginning saying "yes" to a lot of different things because you just want to get on your feet

and get your foot in the door. And as you create your body of work, I think saying "no" is a really important thing to learn, as important as saying "yes."

We're not sure how much you're allowed to say about the new "24" series.

I'm not allowed to say too much, but I'm definitely in the throes of moving to London for the next half a year to shoot "24." I'll be playing a gal named Kate Morgan, who is hunting Jack Bauer when we meet

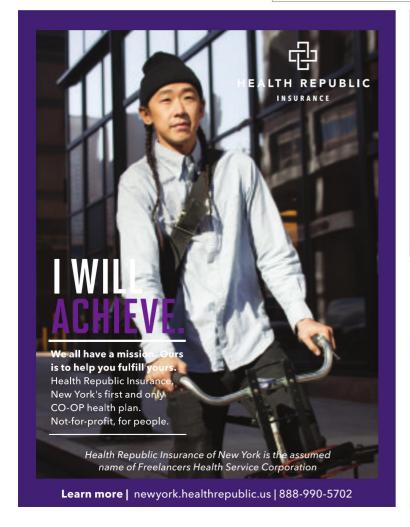
How do you think that compares to the fan community around "Chuck"?

They're pretty similar. People who are enthusiastic about shows tend to be equally enthusiastic, I think. And "Chuck' was special for me. It was my first thing. We had a special bond with the fans, especially because we felt like they helped us survive the five years that we were on the air. They kept fighting for us to stay on the air.



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Explore post-apocalyptic New York in 'Shovel Ready'

Books. Author Adam Sternbergh envisions two threats looming over the future of New York City.

What would it take for New York to return to the gritty, dangerous city it was pre-Michael Bloom-berg? In a time when the city is only getting cleaner and more expensive, author Adam Sternbergh writes about a lawless, treacherous New York in his novel, "Shovel Ready." The book is set in the near future after a bomb hits Times Square. Those who can leave do, abandoning others with no options who must forge a new life in a deteriorating city. At the heart of the book is a former trash collector, who becomes a hitman.

If you think this sounds like it would make a good movie, you aren't alone. The book has already been optioned by Warner Brothers and Denzel Washington has signed on, potentially to play the lead.

"I tried to convey the idea of what one character calls this 'incremental apocalypse," says Stern-bergh, the culture editor at the New York Times Magazine. "The apocalypse stuff we see in movies and books is usually very dramatic, with aliens blowing up the Empire State Building or zombies overrunning the city."

Sternbergh says he was more interested in the idea of a change taking place slowly, similarly to what happened in many major U.S. cities during the '60s and '70s. He cites Detroit as a modern-day example. "It's not as dramatic as the terrorist element in the book, but Detroit is completely unrecognizable now compared to what] it was 50 years ago," he says.

"Shovel Ready" explores our relationship Meet the author

Adam Sternbergh

Jan. 28, 6:30 p.m. **Mysterious Bookshop** 58 Warren St. 212-587-1011 www.mysteriousbook shop.com

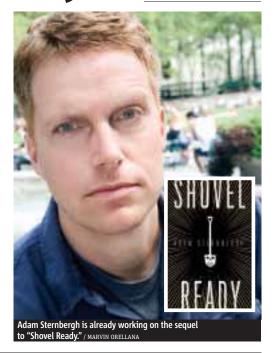
with technology. Wealthy city residents who choose not to leave cocoon themselves in a virtual reality, where all their fantasies can become real. "There was something very familiar about the idea of getting lost in real life and the way in which having that technological outlet can sometimes cause us to ignore what's happening around us," Sternbergh explains.

As someone who has

been living in and reporting on New York City for the last 10 years, Sternbergh says he certainly doesn't hope the city will descend into what is portrayed in the book — but he hopes it doesn't go too far in the other direction either.

Sternbergh fears that in a decade, New York City will feel museumlike, as he says Paris does, a beautiful city that exists for people to admire but lacking the energy and rebirth that New York thrives on. "You have to imagine in 10 years the city is going to be very different than it is now, and I hope we'll still be here to enjoy it. And that the Second Avenue subway will be open.







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www.metro.us Tuesday, January 28, 2014

Hip-hop. From outselling Kanye West to his friendship with Jay Z, J. Cole was destined to be on top.

J. Cole doesn't need anyone to tell him that 2014 is his year. "Every year people tell me that it's 'my year,' but this time I know it's true," he tells us. "I feel like I can accomplish anything.

The rapper and producer has good reason for feeling confident. His album, "Born Sinner," was named one of the best albums of 2013 by Rolling Stone. Released the same day as Kanye West's "Yeezus," Cole outsold West and surpassed him on the Billboard charts.

"Being able to say your album sold more than the Kanye West album is a crazy statement, and I'm a very big Kanye fan," Cole says. "It shows that if you give people the option to choose 'Born Sinner.' That's just the truth and it feels amazing.'

Cole pairs his ability as a producer and lyricist on "Born Sinner" with collaborations with Kendrick Lamar, Miguel, Dirty Projectors' singer Amber Coffman, 50 Cent and TLC, who sing the hook on the album's single, "Crooked Smile." Despite all the big names, Cole says he never had a wish list of artists he was hoping to work with. "It happened in the flow of creating the music. Like with 'Crooked Smile,' I thought, 'Oh man, I would love to hear TLC sing this right here. That would be crazy.' I thought it would be impossible, but it all worked out."

With Jay Z standing behind him, Cole shouldn't have been surprised. Jay Z has been mentoring Cole from the beginning of his career, and their relationship has morphed from a business relationship to If you go

J. Cole

Jan. 28, 8 p.m. The Theater at Madison Square Garden 4 Pennsylvania Plaza, 212-465-6741 www.theateratmsg.com

one of equals. "Now I have the confidence of knowing what I'm doing and I don't need approval. I love Jay Z's guidance and I get it when I want it, but I know how to survive in this game," Cole

Beyond the brag-worthy connections and album sales, Cole says the heart of why he makes music is in the lyrics. "I want to change the way people feel about themselves, not just on a physical level, but the way black people look at themselves, or women look at themselves, or the concept of beauty - whatever it is."

Now Cole is set to play at the Theater at Madison Square Garden tonight and he says the show will be a defining moment for him. "It signifies the end of my tour and the beginning of a whole new chapter in my career as an artist," he says. The concert marks the beginning of what is promising to be another stellar year for Cole - but then again, he already knows.





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Ekaterina Mukhina, spotted in Paris, is all about personality. / PROVIDED

A winter parka and www.metro.us ladylike skirt? It works

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When you're the contributing editor-at-large of Vogue Russia like Ekaterina Mukhina is, you can afford to wear head-to-toe Chanel.

But because couture fashion week calls for a little extra pizzazz, Mukhina mixes it up. When we asked her about her look, she told us: "Personality is the keyword" - hence the kooky Chanel No. 5 perfume bag and the furhooded parka, which totally works because (A) it's cold and (B) when you're a stylist, you don't do Chanel by the book. We'll be adopting her mantra immediately.

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The bitter cold reality of life in the Northeast early in the year dares you to flock elsewhere. So it's not surprising that the peak season for the Bahamas lies in the bleak midwinter. The glut of tourists from the U.S., who can fly there from many airports, has made for a curious culture. On one hand, those who live there maintain the Arawak lifestyle that links them with South America. On the other, they've made room for things American. Indeed, the Bahamian Independence Day is only a few days after the American equivalent. Because tourism is so prevalent, they celebrate both, one right after the other.

The Bahamas teem with fancy hot spots, especially in Nassau, the capital city. It is here that James Bond has returned again and again, including in his maiden voyage, "Dr. No." Breezes Bahamas was the first of what are still only three all-inclusive resorts on the islands, and it remains one of the best deals. This isn't a sleek castle that protects one from everything but the weather and beaches — it's a getaway that tries to keep you close to the islands' life. At Breezes, there are the expected expansive pools, beachfront hang spots and an ever-flowing parade of cocktails whose names you'll quickly forget. But



See: Straw Market

One of the biggest draws in Nassau is the Straw Market, the legendary, cavernous home to local goods from straw hats to art, some repurposed from aluminum cans. Rum can be purchased here, but see if you can make it off the beaten path to John Watling's Distillery. They make craft rum, including one closer to a nursable cognac.

Eat: Conch salad

The mix of local and American is also reflected in the food. The two



restaurants at Breezes and the all-day buffet offer "continental" food while slipping in Bahamian delicacies and twists on American standards. But you'll have to go off-site to take in the country's most cherished foodstuff: conch salad, a refreshing mix of onions, tomatoes and the tangy white meat pulled from shells. A bowl of the stuff will run you \$10. We recommend the ones from Twin Brothers.

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there's also Kalik, the Bahamas' most cherished local beer — a light, sweet brew named for the sound produced by two smacked coconuts.

On site there are myriad activities, including lessons on how to kayak, sail and even (yikes) rock climb. One can relax or get a hot stone massage, and realize — as your body tenses up and rebels against you — the extent of how wound-up your life has made you. Each night

features its own special show in the main hall: some tailored for visitors, with bands performing covers of Top 40 staples, plus nights where they play strictly Bahamian music while decked in the kinds of gear you'd see at Junkanoo, a holiday street parade. When that happens, you finally feel far enough from home.



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Publishing.

McSweeney's brings its irreverent brand to children's literature with the McMullens imprint.

A funny thing happened to the publishing company McSweeney's: Children began to appear. Just as its fan base started to think about procreating, so did the tight-knit staff, which publishes the quarterly literary journal "Timothy McSweeney's Quarterly Concern," the monthly magazine "The Believer," an assortment of book imprints and other upscale, stylized publications.

"McSweeney's has always been eclectic; it's always been open to publishing any kind of book, irrespective of genre," recounts Brian McMullen, who started working for the operation in 2002 as an intern. "The only real qualifying thing [to have us publish it] is that it's interesting to us as editors and as readers."

And what slowly became interesting to the full-time staff of nine were children's books. "We found ourselves saturated in children's literature more than we used to be," McMullen remembers. Since its launch, McSweeney's would publish an occasional children's book here and there, but once they saw the commercial and artistic appeal of them decided to devote an imprint solely to publishing creative, interesting kids books. And so, under the guidance of McMullen, the McSweeney's McMullens children's imprint was

McMullen, now the editorial and art director of the imprint, shares some of his favorite books to get any kid's collection going:

"Crabtree"

Jon and Tucker Nichols

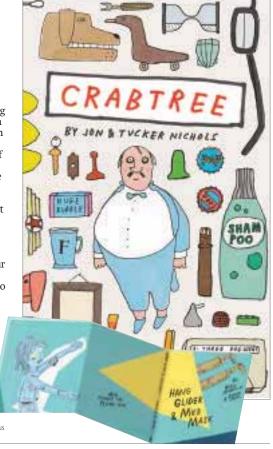
This is probably our best-reviewed and bestdistributed book yet. Tucker Nichols is a gallery artist in San Francisco; he worked with his brother Jon on this, their first kids' book together. Tucker uses his style that he uses for all of his artwork, which usually hangs in galleries, on this book for kids. It's very funny, witty and so re-readable. It's just a beautiful book about a guy who is an intensive collector, and he has to go through all of his belongings and try to find his missing false teeth. At a glance, sometimes our books get misconstrued as being primarily art books, and it can be enjoyed on that level, but our first goal is to please children and be able to hand them something that we're proud to sit down and read with them, or give to somebody who can sit down and read with their child."

"Hang Glider and Mud Mask"

Jason Jagel and Brian McMullen

'This is a book I wrote with art by Jason Jagel. It's a book constructed in a Z shape; it has two spines. It's essentially a

book you can start reading from either end and has a looping narrative. You can start from one end and get one character's side of the story, or you can start from the other side of the book and get the other character's side of the story. The characters meet in the physical middle of the book; it's a very sweet narrative and you can keep reading it in a continuous loop with your child until they get tired of reading it. You can be so inventive and playful. It's probably the best form of any kind of book for visual storytelling. It's a fantastic art form, and we're only going to see more of an appreciation of it."





DOROTHY

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book because they love the art so much. They're treating it almost like a monograph. There's a lot of slippage sometimes between what's an art book and what's a book for kids. I think a lot of the books we're producing get classified as both."

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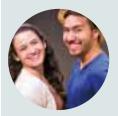
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Your kids just aren't going to appreciate "Kinky Boots" or "The Book of Mormon" the same way you do, so we rounded up three upcoming shows that they are guaranteed to enjoy. **EMILY LAURENCE**

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Immerse yourself in French culture for a day at the French Institute Alliance Francaise's Family Saturday. The highlight is a production of "The Story of Babar," from the famed French children's books.



After the performance, there's a screening of a North African kiddie indie called "Zarafa," about a small boy and a giraffe who travel across Africa together. Then, attend a pastry-cooking workshop taught by French chef Sylvie Berger. Feb. 8, 2 p.m.

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Gap launches limited-edition Paddington Bear collection

Fashion. Paddington Bear serves as the adorable style muse for a new line for babyGap.

Remember adorable Paddington Bear? Of course you do. The sweet children's book character, illustrated by Peggy Fortnum, is now serving as the style muse for a new limited-edition collection for babyGap. Meaning, if you are about to have a child, you might want to edit your registry - and if you already have a little one at home, it's time to play dress up.

The collection — which features items for boys and

girls ranging in size from newborn to 24 months — includes chic spring staples such as a navy rain parka with toggle closure, yellow Wellington boots and knit hats with little bear ears — yes, hats with ears are considered staples for kids.

Moms living in New York have the added bonus of taking their tots to an interactive playroom set up at Gap's Fifth Avenue location through February. There, kids are encouraged to decorate walls set up like coloring books and listen to the Paddington Bear audio collection. BYO marmalade, though.



CHADHA tina.chadha@metro.us



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Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18. Investment opportunities will be dubious and unlikely to yield results. Be scrupulous about whom to trust with your cash.

H Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. It may be a challenge to relate to your partner right now. Listen carefully to his or her concerns, but avoid voicing your opinions.

T Aries | March 21-April 20. Investing in property will be your best bet. Examine your options carefully. Consider joint ventures. Women may present you with opportunities.

Taurus | April 21-May 21. Romantic opportunities can develop while traveling for business or attending a talk. You can complete

contracts.

II Gemini | May 22-June 20. You can improve your financial situation through carefully considered investments or handling other people's money.

Gancer | June 21-July 22. You may see a return on past investments. You will cherish the company of children if you act intelligently. Self-improvement will have a beneficial outcome.

∩ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.

You will be most efficient if you can work from home today. Catch up on any housework you have been avoiding lately.

M Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. You must take full advantage of any opportunity to travel. Keep your personal life to yourself for the time being. Correspondence is unlikely to reach you.

△ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. You will likely feel extravagant. Your lover may end up costing you today. Avoid lending money or possessions to female friends.

M Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. You should make time to discuss the future with your partner. Short trips will help to ease your communication.

📝 Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Being evasive or avoidant will backfire on you today. Now is the time to come clean and hope for the best.

Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20. Someone may try to undermine you today. Be clear and direct when talking to superiors or colleagues.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

udoku: Easy and hard

1				6	8			
7	3				2	4	6	
								9
2			5	9		7		
		9	2	7	3	8		
		5		8	1			2
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	5		4	6	7	2		3
					3	6		1
	1		3	5		7		2
		7						
			6				5	9

How to play Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Biebs isn't special

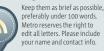
Re: 'Bigger they are...' (Metro, Jan. 27) Letter writer Thomas Robertson is missing the point. The average person doesn't take pleasure in the failings of others. It is when the privileged ones who think the rules don't apply to them fail that we rejoice. If it had not been someone famous drag racing and having his friends block off streets, they would all be arrested without question, so why is it being questioned that Justin Bieber was arrested? And as for Gov. Christie, as you say, he got CAUGHT. A young, out-of-control rich child is finally going to have to come clean · and so will Bieber. BRIAN GRAU, VIA EMAIL

You're not metal. madám

Re: 'A life worth giving' (Metro, Jan. 23) Letter writer Jeff Estano advocates for the civil rights of "the smallest of our citizens," namely the unborn. He seems to believe that U.S citizens have a right to live and grow inside another person's body and feed off that per-son's blood, WITHOUT that person's consent. Mr. Estano, women are not machines. They are not incubators.

PASQUALE G. TATO, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us



You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers - right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!



Across

- 1 Urban, for short 6 Snowman accessory
- 10 Thumbs-up
- 14 Peacocks do it 15 Not working
- 16 Whey-faced
- 17 Ernest or Julio
- 18 Of a Stone Age period
- 20 Spouted rhetoric
- 22 Fractional part
- 23 Trucker's need (2 wds.) 26 Kitchen item
- 27 Wearing a cowl
- 28 Emphasize (2 wds.)
- 33 Gantry of fiction
- 34 Metamorphic rock
- 35 Monk's title
- 36 Use a Kindle
- 37 Dally with
- 38 Shellfish
- 39 Coffee brewer 40 Disconnected
- 41 Alan Ladd film
- 42 Reservations
- 44 Social standing 45 Picnic intruder
- 46 Earliest
- 47 Burning

- 50 Earl Grey's place 52 Gad (2 wds.)

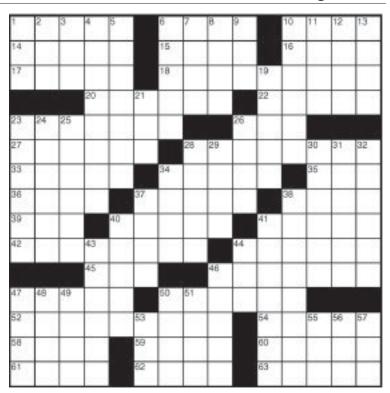
- 58 Most desirable 59 Novelist — Seton
- 60 Dormant
- 61 Shampoo additive
- 62 Hero's deed
- 63 Spurred on

Down

- 1 Auto-sticker info
- 2 Baseball stat 3 Util. bill
- 4 Added ammo
- 5 Not in stock (2 wds.) 6 Bean or horse
- 7 fixe
- 8 Tramp along
- 9 Electric fish
- 10 Choosing 11 Actress Madeline —
- 12 Perched
- 13 "Ugh!" 19 Foolish, plus
- 21 Relief
- 23 Little angel 24 Short jacket
- 25 Parmesan cousin
- 26 Dirk (Cussler hero)
- 29 Red inside
- 31 Seventh planet
- 28 Rapture 30 Recently (2 wds.)

- 32 Most docile
- 34 Wade through
 - 37 Basin in a church
 - 38 Mantra recitation
 - 40 Hard-hit drive
 - 41 Cop's contact
 - 43 Dojo activity 44 Peace offering
 - 46 Mubarak predecessor

 - 47 "Waterloo" singing group 48 Oil or kerosene
 - 49 "- Excited"
 - 50 Adjust a piano
 - 51 "Orinoco Flow" singer
 - 53 Lummox 55 Canine command
 - 56 Previously
 - 57 Soho co.



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DONALD FEHR

The NHL players' association executive director talked to us about the league one year after the lockout, fans coming back, the future of fighting and whether we'll see NHL pros in the Olympics ever again.

A VOICE FOR THE PLAYERS

How would you describe the relationship between the players' association and NHL one year after the lockout?

I think the answer to that is "professional." I think it is direct. Hopefully it is maturing. There is a lot of ongoing communication between our offices as we attempt to complete the agreement and operate. ... Hopefully that will continue to develop.

During the labor talks one of the aspects you were adamant about was the lockout was unnecessary. Do you still feel the same way?

Yes. That hasn't changed. As I think I've said any number of times, that's the collective bargaining strategy of choice in the salary cap sports. I don't think it was necessary, but it certainly was expected.

Quoted

"My job is to represent what the players feel is appropriate. ... There will be continued discussion; there will be continued debate."

Fehr, on whether fighting has a place in the future of the NHL

Were you surprised by the response of NHL fans to the league following the lockout, in terms of attendance and spending money on the product?

Without commenting specifically about spending dollars, I was not surprised by the fan response. The product is really good. The show the guys put on is really compelling. And that's especially true for

hockey fans, who understand really what's going on out there and have been fans for a long time. And if the game was taken away from them for awhile, you're going to see renewed interest when it comes back. That's just not, by the way, a hockey speculation. That's been the case in the other sports, too.

Where do you see the league headed in the next five to 10 years, and how does that compare to the NFL, NBA and MLB?

What goes on out there [on ice] — to understand and appreciate the players — not only their consummate athletic skill, drive, their dedication, their intelligence and all the rest of that, we ought to be able to figure out a way, not only to grow jointly with the NHL [but] to demonstrate why

Olympics

The players held firm during the CBA talks on Olympic participation. Do you see Sochi as the last time NHL players will participate in the Olympics?

I think that it was, as I understand it, a caseby-case basis in every Ólympics. And what Í assume and believe will happen after this one is that people will stop, reflect and try to figure out what happened poorly, if anything did, what it would mean and then sit down with the NHL and try to figure out where we go from here. But that's not a judgment vou make now. We're way too early for that. this game is so extraordinary in a fashion that will allow us to attract more and more fans as time goes on. And I'm pretty optimistic about

This year, the NHL will play six outdoor games. What is this doing for the game, and is there a concern the league could schedule too many outdoor games? We'll obviously have to talk to the players and see if they thought whether it was good or bad, whether they would like to continue it again. If we do continue it, you need to look at where you would want to do that. So I think this is going to be an interesting experiment and hopefully it's going to work.

DENIS GORMAN



Villanova drops

Unbeaten teams top newest rankings

Perfect Arizona and Syracuse stand at No. 1 and 2 respectively in the newest AP Top 25 poll with Arizona receiving all but two first-place votes. Florida, undefeated Wichita State and San Diego State round out a diverse Top 5.



24

QB Wilson introducing himself on biggest stage

Super Bowl XLVIII. The signal caller without the big-money endorsement deals makes an impact.

No one needs to be introduced to Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning. But the same can't be said for relative newcomer Russell Wilson - Manning's opposite in Sunday's Super Bowl XLVIII.

Seattle's second-year signal caller is getting a chance to introduce himself to a national audience this postseason. And there's no bigger stage than a Super Bowl to do

"He won me over so quickly," Seahahwks veteran tight end Zach Miller



Wilson ran a 4.45-second 40-yard dash at the 2012 NFL Combine. The only QB faster was Robert Griffin III.

said at Monday's media session. "The first thing I noticed was that he's a playmaker. He was making these throws where I would think, 'Wow. This guy's got it.' And he just wants to win so badly. You love playing with a guy like that. He makes you better."

Wilson had to win over teammates quickly because he was never supposed to be in this position to begin with. He was drafted in the third round in the 2012 NFL Draft and seen mostly as an undersized (5-foot-11, 206 pounds) mobile quarterback.

Even the Seahawks didn't see him as a starter, signing Matt Flynn Aaron Rodgers' backup in Green Bay — in March 2012 and expecting Wilson to spend at least the 2012 season, if not a few more, on the bench.

for bringing in the leader of his offense.

roll said Monday. "[General manager| John Schneider led the charge on this thing. John had it pegged perfectly where it hap-pened for us. He had been sweating it out in the second round."

Flynn struggled with injuries in preseason and Wilson won the job on the

Wilson has used fellow undersized quarterback Drew Brees as a guide, saying Sunday at his first press conference in New Jersey he looked up to him since Brees played in college at Purdue.

"When I went to Wistional Football League,' poised in big situations."



Head coach Pete Carroll praised his front office

"It's real common for people to say, 'Hey, we loved that guy too,'" Car-

consin, that's when I really started watching him. I watched every single throw that he made the year before in the Na-Wilson said. "I've read his book several times, and he's just a great inspiration. He's a guy that does things right, a guy that is a great leader, and he's so





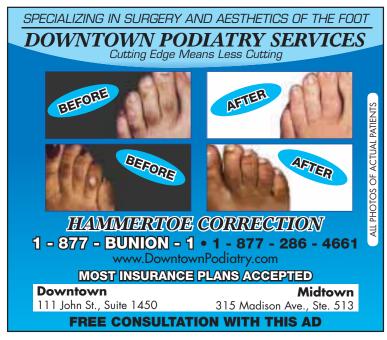
Anthony focused on playoff race

Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony is under the microscope for so many reasons, but what matters to him is doing everything he can to get his team back into the Atlantic Division playoff race.

Everything else is irrelevant to me as far as when it comes to basketball. Winning a championship is the only thing," Anthony said when asked of his recent scoring tear. "In my mind that's the only thing I want to accomplish, the only thing I want to achieve, and I'm gonna do everything I can to get that.'

Speaking of being under the microscope, Anthony's wife, La La, made a little news of her own Monday when she told Bravo her husband would "definitely" stay in New York, even though he can opt out of his contract at the end of this season. TONY WILLIAMS

































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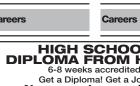
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FREE HW-F450 soundbar with purchase of any F7500 or F8000 series TV



Samsung UN50F6400 50" 1080p 3D LED TV SKU: SSGUN50F6400

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